AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A bit head retaining system includes a bit head having an upper end and a working face, and a retention sleeve adapted to be connected to an end of a drill casing and having an internal opening in which at least a portion of the bit head above the working face is disposed, the bit head being secured to the retention sleeve so as to be axially immovable relative to the retention sleeve. A method of ~~method of~~ installing a bit head in a percussion drill is also disclosed.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] As seen in the drawing, a bit head retaining system 21 according to an embodiment of the present invention includes a bit head 23 having an upper end 25 and a working face 27. A driver sub 29 having an internal opening 31 in which the upper end 25 of the bit head 23 is axially movable is preferably provided. An annular gap G is defined between the ~~drive~~ driver sub 29 and the upper end 25 of the bit head 23.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

A retention sleeve 33 having an internal opening 35 in which at least a portion of the bit head ~~35~~ 23 above the working face 27 and at least a portion of the driver sub 29 are disposed is preferably provided. The retention sleeve 33 is preferably axially immovable relative to the bit head 23. The retention sleeve 33 is preferably axially movable relative to the driver sub 29. The retention sleeve 33 preferably completely covers the gap G between the drive sub 29 and the upper end 25 of the bit head 23 so that debris cannot enter the gap.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

The upper end 25 of the bit head 23 preferably has external splines 49 and the driver sub 29 preferably has internal splines 51 that correspond to the external splines so that the bit head is axially movable but not rotatable relative to the driver sub. A piston case 53 preferably has an end portion 55 to which a second end 57 of the driver sub 29 is secured. The end portion 55 of the piston case 53 preferably

has internal threads 59, and the driver sub 29 preferably has external threads 61 by its end 57. The driver sub 29 is preferably attached to the end portion 55 of the piston case 53 by the external threads 61 of the driver sub mating with the internal threads 59 of the end portion, whereby the piston case 53 and the driver sub 29 together form a tubular structure.